

Medical Miscellany¹

Amaurosis Blindness without evidence of disease in the eye itself.

Caudle An alcoholic remedy given to newborns that were in need of stimulation to survive.

Eruptive Diseases A generic name covering chicken pox, measles, scarlet fever, and small pox.

Incubus A frightening dream accompanied with pressure on the chest and a feeling of powerlessness to move or speak.

Kopp's Baby Friend A patent medicine used as a sedative for infants. The principle ingredient was morphine. Late 1800s.

Lumbago Also backache. A rheumatic condition of the lower back characterized by pain and rigidity.

Marasmus Senilis Also senile atrophy. A condition characterized by the gradual wasting of the body in those of advanced age.

Moria A type of dementia characterized by excessive, fatuous verbal expressions and inability to be serious.

Ozena A chronic disease of the nose characterized by a foul smelling discharge and caused by inflammation of nasal mucous membrane, syphilitic ulcerations, or dental decay.

Pectoral Conditions A generic term used to indicate illnesses affecting the lungs such as bronchitis, whooping cough, pleurisy, and pneumonia.

Quilled Baby A baby born of a mother who was treated with snuff blown into her nose with a goose quill during labor. The subsequent sneezing was intended to facilitate delivery.

Shoddy Fever A disease believed to be caused by the inhalation of lint dust generated in factories that made wool fabric. Characterized by fever, headache, cough, and breathing difficulties.

Tenders Women who were care takers of infants or sick persons in the 18th century.

Wasting Disease A chronic illness characterized by a loss of body weight and body strength, e.g., tuberculosis or cancer.

¹ *A Medical Miscellany for Genealogists* by Dr. Jeanette L. Jerger, 1995, Heritage Books